AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. - 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically aseptically bottling aseptically sterilized foodstuffs comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of bottles;

aseptically disinfecting the bottles at a rate greater than 100 bottles per minute wherein the disinfecting is with hot atomized hydrogen peroxide; and

aseptically filling the bottles with aseptically sterilized foodstuffs.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently Amended) A device for automatically aseptically bottling aseptically sterilized foodstuffs comprising:

means for providing a plurality of bottles;

means for aseptically disinfecting the bottles at a rate greater than 100 bottles per minute wherein the means for aseptically disinfecting the bottles further includes means for disinfecting an interior of the bottles with a hot atomized hydrogen peroxide; and

means for aseptically filling the bottles with aseptically sterilized foodstuffs.

23. (Withdrawn) An aseptic processing apparatus for aseptically bottling aseptically sterilized foodstuffs comprising:

a sterile tunnel for surrounding a plurality of bottles with pressurized sterile air;

a conveying apparatus for moving the plurality of bottles through the sterile tunnel;

a bottle infeed, sterilization and conveying apparatus for sterilizing an exterior surface of each bottle and for feeding the sterilized bottles into the sterile tunnel;

an interior bottle sterilization apparatus for applying a sterilant to an interior surface of each bottle;

an activation and drying apparatus for activating and removing the sterilant from the interior surface of each bottle;

a product filler apparatus for filling the aseptically sterilized plurality of bottles with the aseptically sterilized foodstuffs;

a lidding apparatus for applying a sterilized lid to each bottle; and

a bottle discharge apparatus for removing the bottles from the sterile tunnel.

24. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the sterile tunnel further includes a plurality of partitions forming a plurality of sterilant concentration zones.

25. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein each bottle has an opening size to height ratio of less than one.

26. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the sterilant is hydrogen peroxide.

27. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the sterilant is oxonia.

28. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 23, further including a lid sterilization apparatus.

29. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the plurality of bottles are made from plastic.

30. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the plastic is polyethylene terepthalate.

31. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 29, wherein the plastic is high density polyethylene.

32. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 23, further including a feedback control system for maintaining aseptic bottling conditions.

33. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the product filling apparatus fills the plurality of bottles at a rate greater than 360 bottles per minute.

34. (Withdrawn) The aseptic processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the sterile tunnel encloses the interior bottle sterilization apparatus, the activation and drying apparatus, the product filler apparatus, and the lidding apparatus.

35. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of bottles are made from a glass.

36. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of bottles are made from a plastic.